

The seal of the Delaware County Prosecutor's Office is circular. It features a central emblem with a sunburst and a scale of justice. The text "PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE" is at the top, "DELAWARE COUNTY" is at the bottom, and "OHIO" is in a banner across the middle. The motto "WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE" is written around the inner edge of the seal.

Melissa A. Schiffel

Delaware County Prosecutor

August 19, 2022

Dave Yost
Ohio Attorney General
Opinions Section
30 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3428

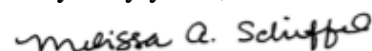
Dear Attorney General Yost:

Ohio Revised Code 5101.56 was revised and amended on October 17, 2019 to prohibit the use of state and local funds for abortion related care unless specific circumstances apply. In July of 2019, several statutes were enacted regarding the performance of an abortion and related care after the detection of a fetal heartbeat. R.C. 2919.195 etc. Recently, the United States Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* enabling states to govern abortions and related care through laws enacted by the states' respective legislatures. Our office requests your legal opinion/guidance regarding the following:

- 1) In light of these statutes in Ohio and the United States Supreme Court's decision, can state and local governments fund abortions and abortion related care using state or local funds?
 - a. If yes, how and in what circumstances can state and local funds be used to fund abortions and related care?
 - b. Can local governments fund health care plans that cover abortions and related abortion care?
 - c. Can local governments provide funding to organizations and not-for profit organizations who provide abortions and related care?
- 2) How does Home Rule impact this ability or inability of state and local governments to fund abortion related care?

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or if you need clarification. I look forward to receiving your response.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa A. Schiffel".

Melissa A. Schiffel
Delaware County Prosecuting Attorney